

NUMBER 3.

The General Assembly of Maryland have seen with concern certain indications, at the seat of the General Government, of an interference with the institution of slavery in the slave holding States, and cannot hesitate to express their sentiments, and those of the people they represent, in regard to a policy so unwise and mischievous

This war is prosecuted by the Nation with but one object, that, namely, of a restoration of the Union just as it was when the rebellion broke out. The rebellious States are to be brought back to their places in the Union, without change or diminution of their constitutional rights; in the language of the resolution adopted by both houses of Congress at its extra session in July last, with remarkable unanimity, this war is declared to be prosecuted not in any spirit of oppression, or for any purposes of conquest or subjugation, or purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the constitution and to preserve the Union, with all the dignity, equality and rights of the several States unimpaired, and that, as soon as those objects are accomplished, the war ought to cease.

The objects and purposes of the war thus impressively declared, are those alone which the Nation can rightfully contemplate in its prosecution; and the moment the object of the war changes from a simple restoration of the Union as known to the constitution, to something else in conflict with the guarantees of that instrument, from that moment the war itself changes its character.

The duty of the Government in a great crisis like the present is a very plain one, it is to preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States; and, thankful as we have reason to be for our exemption from the devastation and ruin of civil war, we rely further upon the wisdom and firmness of the President, in the discharge of the high and solemn trust committed to his hands, to resist and rebuke all attempts, from any and from every quarter, to convert this war into a crusade against the institution of domestic slavery as it exists in the Southern States, under the guarantees of the constitution, or to take advantage of the troubled condition of our country, for the gratification of personal views or sectional prejudices.

It is, therefore, in accordance with these views:

1. *Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That we cordially approve of the resolutions passed at the extra session of Congress, already alluded to, and earnestly desire that in the prosecution of the war the sentiments and purposes it announces as the deliberate judgment of the Nation, may be steadily kept in view, and faithfully adhered to by all the Departments of the Government, and by our armies in the field.

2. *Resolved,* That our confidence in the wisdom, firmness, and moderation of President Lincoln remain undiminished. That we have seen, with approval and gratification, the sentiments announced by the Presi-